

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-10 /077 W

----- 041200

P R 051850Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6182

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0522

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OVF BA-MFM

REN: STATE 021494

IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSTPONED MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR BUENOS AIRES AND HIS ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY IN NICARAGUA FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I DELIVERED TO HIM THE TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT AND REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AS PER REFTEL. PRESIDENT SOMOZA DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH HIS VIEWS ON THE REASONS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MEETING WHICH MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST. SOMOZA SAID THAT IT WAS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT TO HIM THAT MEXICO ANNOUNCED AT THE LAST MOMENT THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING UNLESS CUBA WAS INVITED. HE SAID THAT THIS INDICATED TO HIM THAT MEXICO WAS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A REASON FOR NOT ATTENDING, SEPARATE AND APART FROM FOLLOWING THE LEADERSHIP OF VENEZUELA. SOMOZA SAID FURTHER THAT HE BELIEVED THAT

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THE CONVERGENCE OF THE ATTITUDES ON MEXICO AND VENEZUELA

CREATED AN "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" SITUATION FOR ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CARACAS, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD TOLD HIM THAT ARGENTINA WAS NEGOTIATING WITH VENEZUELA FOR A LONG TERM CREDIT ARRANGEMENT FOR PETROLEUM AND THAT THUS ARGENTINA WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO OFFEND VENEZUELA. AT THE SAME TIME THE STATEMENT BY MEXICO REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF CUBA PLACED ARGENTINA IN AN "IMPOSSIBLE POSITION" BECAUSE ARGENTINA'S NEIGHBOR CHILE HAD ALREADY STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTEND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IF CUBA WERE PRESENT, AND HER OTHER THREE NEIGHBORS, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND BRAZIL, WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE PLEASED BY THE PRESENCE OF CUBA. IN ORDER TO FURTHER COMPLICATE THE SITUATION, SOMOZA CONTINUED, THE STATEMENT REGARDING CUBA BY MEXICO WAS POSSIBLY DESIGNED AS A DIRECT SLAP AT CHILE IN MEXICO'S CONTINUING FEUD WITH THAT COUNTRY. SUMMARIZING, SOMOZA FELT THAT WITH THESE DIVERGENT BUT COMPLEMENTARY FORCES AT WORK, ARGENTINA HAD NO ALTERNATIVE EXCEPT TO INDICATE ITS BELIEF THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE POSTPONED. SOMOZA EMPHASIZED THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE POSITION ESTABLISHED AND ENUNCIATED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA AT THEIR MEETING IN GUATEMALA, HE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THESE FOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE ATTENDED THE MEETING HAD IT TAKEN PLACE. SOMOZA FELT IT WAS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE WORDING OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974 HAD GIVEN VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR AN EXCUSE TO ASSERT THEIR NATIONALISTIC ASPIRATIONS, BUT HE SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WERE SHARP DIFFERENCES AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH APPEAR TO BE ABLE TO AGREE ON SOME "EMOTIONAL NATIONALISTIC ISSUE" SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR HAD RAISED. PRESIDENT SOMOZA EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE USG WOULD BE BEST ADVISED TO AVOID EFFORTS AT MULTILATERAL HEMISPHERIC MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF THE OAS STRUCTURE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE AND TO CONCENTRATE ON THE STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE HOPE THAT A DEGREE OF MATURITY AND IDENTITY OF INTERESTS COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD MAKE CONTINUING MULTILATERAL MEETINGS MORE PRODUCTIVE. PRESIDENT SOMOZA EXPRESSED  
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HIS EXTREME PERSONAL ADMIRATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS "HIGHLY ADMIRABLE" EFFORTS. SOMOZA FELT THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TOWARD LATIN AMERICA WERE NOT SUPPORTED BY LATIN COUNTRIES TO THE DEGREE WHICH THEY DESERVED. SOMOZA ENDED HIS COMMENTS BY STATING THAT IT WAS THE CONTINUING POLICY OF NICARAGUA TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE UNITED STATES WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

SHELTON

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